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LETTER DATED 11 NOVEMBER 1992 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I refer to my letter to the President of the Security Council dated 28 October (S/24731) in which I reported that due to certain difficulties which had developed, it would not be possible to conclude the dismantling of the military structure of the FMLN on the date originally envisaged, and that I had asked Messrs. Marrack Goulding and Alvaro de Soto to travel to San Salvador to assist in overcoming those difficulties. In the meantime, I recommended, and the Council agreed in resolution 784 (1992), to extend the mandate of ONUSAL until 30 November 1992. In approving my proposal, the Council urged both parties "to respect scrupulously and to implement in good faith the commitments assumed by them under the agreements signed on 16 January 1992 at Mexico City and to respond positively to the Secretary-General's latest proposals to them aimed at overcoming the current difficulties".

On 23 October I had proposed to the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN a set of adjustments to the timetable in the Peace Agreements according to which the phase of the cessation of the armed conflict would be completed on 15 December. The FMLN accepted my proposal contingent upon agreement by the Government. President Cristiani, however, reserved his position on a number of aspects of my proposal, conditioning demobilization, reduction and restructuring of the Armed Forces on submission by the FMLN of a weapons inventory satisfactory to the Secretary-General and initiation of the destruction of those weapons. President Cristiani raised some questions concerning the schedule envisaged for implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission on purification of the Armed Forces.

Mr. Goulding and Mr. de Soto arrived in San Salvador on 30 October and immediately began consultations with President Cristiani and, separately, with the General Command of the FMLN. On 2 November I had to ask Mr. Goulding to return to New York and go to Angola because of the situation which had arisen there.

Mr. de Soto stayed on in San Salvador and returned on 7 November, having successfully concluded arrangements with the parties which would formally bring the armed conflict to an end on 15 December 1992. This is the date which I had proposed in my 23 October letter to the two sides.

President Cristiani has agreed to complete the implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission on purification of the Armed Forces within a specified time-frame. A certain adjustment was necessary for the practical reason that decisions regarding military personnel are issued and made public on the last day of each month and become effective on the first day of the following month. President Cristiani has agreed to inform me by 29 November of the administrative decisions he has taken on this matter. Assuming these decisions match the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission (all of which have remained confidential), the FMLN is to provide ONUSAL with a final inventory of weapons, conclude the concentration of those weapons on 30 November and begin their destruction on 1 December. These are also the dates which I had proposed. Contingent upon my confirmation that these actions have been duly completed, the Government would promptly resume the dissolution of military units as previously agreed.

It is important to note that it has been expressly stipulated, for the first time, that compliance with certain key points in the calendar by one side is contingent upon compliance with specific undertakings by the other side. Careful monitoring by ONUSAL will therefore be necessary to ensure that compliance takes place on schedule. I shall keep the Security Council duly informed of progress in this regard.

It is evident that the peace process is entering an especially delicate phase during which it will be imperative that both parties act with caution and restraint in order to consolidate stability in the country. It will be equally important that such caution and restraint be ensured for an extended period after 15 December, especially in the former zones of conflict, so that national reconciliation may become a reality.

As requested in resolution 784 (1992), I will present to the Council in the second half of November a report on the progress of the peace process and my recommendations regarding the extension of the mandate of ONUSAL.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI